ZERO YEAR
DC COMICS™
NIGHTWING™
25
KYLE HIGGINS
WILL CONRAD
CLIFF RICHARDS
THE NEW 52!
JAN 2014
RATED T TEEN
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SIX YEARS AGO THE LEGEND OF BATMAN EMERGED AMID THE GREATEST CATASTROPHE GOTHAM HAD EVER ENDURED. A MANIAC CALLING HIMSELF THE RIDDLER HAS SHUT DOWN ALL ELECTRIC POWER MERE DAYS BEFORE A TERRIFYING SUPERSTORM. BUT THE DARK KNIGHT ISN'T THE ONLY HERO TO SURFACE DURING THIS MOMENT IN TIME KNOWN ONLY AS THE ZERO YEAR

DC COMICS PRESENTS NIGHTWING IN A ZERO YEAR ADVENTURE:

ONE DARK CITY NIGHT

KYLE HIGGINS WRITER
WILL CONRAD & CLIFF RICHARDS ART
PETE PANTAZIS COLORS
CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERS
CONRAD AND PANTAZIS COVER
DARREN SHAN ASSISTANT EDITOR
RACHEL GLUCKSTERN EDITOR
MIKE MARTS GROUP EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

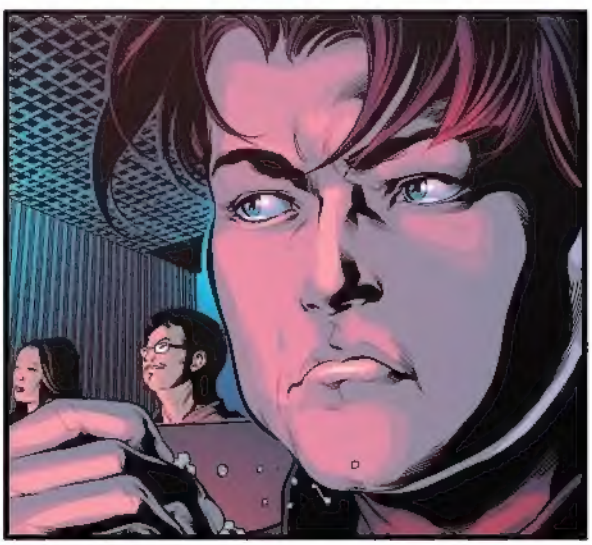
AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT!
MAN, I KNEW I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT THE OTHER SABER.
RIGHT, BECAUSE IT'S THE SWORD'S FAULT WE'RE IN THIS.
HEY, I DIDN'T SEE YOU DIVE AFTER THE DIAMONDS WHEN THE PLANE BLEW UP. YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT WHOSE FAULT THIS IS--
BOTH OF YOU, SHUT UP! IF WE'RE GONNA GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE, WE GOTTA HELP EACH OTHER.

WE'RE A TEAM, DAMMIT!

AND THERE'RE ROBOTS TO KILL!
AW SNAP!

SOMEBODY'S GETTIN' SLICED!

-HAHAHA-
-HAHA- SHHH...PEOPLE ARE -HAHA- LOOKING.
I DON'T EVEN CARE. THAT LINE WAS AMAZING.



--GOTHAM'S NUMBER ONE SPOT FOR TALK RADIO, IN A FEW MINUTES--
--JUST GOTTA RUN RUN AWAAAAAAY WITH YOU--
--AND TWO OUTS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD--
HONKKK
HONKK
--WE'LL HAVE REPRESENTATIVE KEARNS ON THE LINE TO DISCUSS THIS WEEK'S REPORT--
--DON'T WANNA FIGHT FIGHT TODAAAAAY--
--WITH RUNNERS AT THE CORNERS AND RAMIREZ ON DECK--
--THAT CITED A NATIONWIDE RISE IN MUR--KZZT
--WITH YO--KZZZT
HOOOOONK
HOONK HOONK
WHAT THE HELL...?

THOOOM
HEY!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
IS IT THE PROJECTOR?
I DON'T THINK SO. NONE OF THE SIDE LIGHTS ARE ON, EITHER.
HEY... I'VE GOT NO SIGNAL.
ME NEITHER.
THE WHOLE CITY'S DEAD!
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!
AIIEEEE!

LEMME OUT!
JASON! SUSAN!
I CAN'T FIND MY KIDS!
MOVE!
OOF!
AH! STOP! SOME-BODY--
GHH!
KRAK
"WOW! WHAT A SENSATIONAL PASS--"

--FOR DICK GRAYSON!
LET HIM HEAR IT, FOLKS!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
THREE HOURS EARLIER.
OOP!
AND WITH A QUICK ASSIST FROM RAYMOND, IT'S BACK TO THE PLATFORM FOR DICK--
--WHERE HE'LL HAND OFF TO OUR NEXT YOUNG PRODIGY!
OUR SON'S PUSHING AGAIN.
MORE LIKE SHOWING OFF.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE LOVELY, THE WONDERFUL-- RAYA VESTRI!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP

WAIT-- NOT SO FAST, FOLKS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'VE GOT IT TONIGHT! I CAN FEEL IT!
GRAYSON'S TAKING ONE MORE PASS!
HE RELEASES--
--AND HITS THE QUADRUPLE!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
WOOO!
YEAH!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ONE MORE TIME FOR THE STAR OF HALY'S CIRCUS...
...DICK GRAYSON!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP

YOU KEEP GOING LIKE *THIS*--
--THEY'RE GONNA TAKE THE "S" OFF "THE FLYING GRAYSONS!"
WATCH OUT, JOHN AND MARY!
HA!
HEY, RAYMOND...
HEY, RAYA...
...
HEY, I WAS *FEELIN'* IT TONIGHT.
OF *COURSE* YOU WERE. YOU'RE DICK GRAYSON.
YOU'RE FEELIN' IT *EVERY* NIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
NOTHING, DICK...

"...ABSOLUTELY NOTHING."
I JUST SAW RAYMOND AND RAYA BY THE FIRE. I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE?
THEY BACKED OUT.
THAT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SHOW?
I DUNNO. MAYBE.
WE *TALKED* ABOUT THIS, DICK.
WHATEVER. IT'S THEIR LOSS. I'M STILL GOING.
IN *GOTHAM?* NOT BY *YOURSELF*, YOU'RE NOT.
WHAT?! DAD, COME *ON.* IT'S LIKE, A COUPLE MILES FROM HERE.
EXACTLY.
DAD...
YOU KNOW, YOUR FRIENDS *RESPECT* HOW TALENTED YOU ARE, DICK.
IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO TREAT THEM THE SAME WAY.
I PROMISE, YOU'LL SEE A LOT MORE *MOVIES* IF YOU DO.

GOTHAM GENERAL
GENE!
I'M LOOKING AT CHARTS ON THE GENERATORS--WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FUEL TO LAST THE WEEK. AFTER *THAT*...
HELZINGER'S ON THE TABLE R GHT *NOW*.
THEN YOU HAVE TO PULL HIM *OFF*. DELAY THE SURGERY.
WITH H S CONDITION? AND SIZE? I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS BRAIN WILL LOOK LIKE IN A WEEK, MUCH LESS IN A FEW--
ROOAAR
KRASH

GRWWWP!
WHA-WHAT WERE YOU OPERATING ON AGAIN?!
HIS AMYGDALA!
HURRRRTS...
...IT HURTSSSSS!
KRSSSHH

UHHH... OH, MAN... STILL IN THE THEATER?
HEY, HE'S NOT DEAD. COOL.
I'M JOSH. THAT'S CJ AND JANA. AND YEP, WE'RE STILL IN THE THEATER.
JOSH SAW YOU GO DOWN. HE'S THE ONE THAT PULLED YOU OUT OF THE CROWD.
WHOEVER YOU ARE.
DICK.
AND, UH, THANKS. I TOTALLY OWE YOU GUYS.
YOU LIVE NEARBY?
ACTUALLY, I'M IN TOWN WITH THE CIRCUS.
THEY STILL HAVE THOSE?
KAKLIK
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, JOSH. OF COURSE THEY HAVE THEM.
ALL RIGHT-- MY DAD'S PLACE ISN'T TOO FAR. YOU GUYS STAY TIGHT, I CAN GET US THERE.
THE CIRCUS IS SET UP ON THIRD STREET. I'LL POINT OUT THE ROUTE WHEN WE'RE CLOSE, DICK.
UNLESS YOU'D RATHER TAKE YOUR CHANCES ON THE MAIN STREETS WITH ALL THE RIOTERS AND STUFF.
WELL WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...

EVERY-TH NG'S LOCKED DOWN.
WE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE *NEAR* THE THEATER. THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS *WAIT*, MARY.
HOW COULD YOU LET HIM GO INTO THE CITY BY HIMSELF, MUCH LESS TO *THAT* THEATER? JIMMY SAYS THAT MOB FAMILY--THE *MARONIS*--*OWN* IT.
I *DIDN'T* LET HIM GO. I TOLD HIM HE WASN'T *ALLOWED* TO BY *HIMSELF*.
GOD, WHEN HE GETS BACK HERE HE'S *SO* GROUNDED...
IF HE GETS BACK...
HE *WILL*, MARY. DICK'S A SMART KID. I'M SURE HE'S OKAY...

"...WHEREVER HE IS."
I'M FROM METROPOLIS, ORIGINALLY. BUT WE MOVED A COUPLE YEARS AGO WHEN MY DAD GOT A JOB AT THE GOTHAM HERALD.
JOSH GREW UP HERE, THOUGH.
BORN AND RAISED. BETWEEN CJ AND ME, WE'VE PROBABLY SPENT MORE TIME ON THE STREETS THAN THE COPS.
CJ'S FROM HERE, TOO?
YOU GUYS WANT TO KEEP UP? OR KEEP TALKING?
SORRY CJ'S JUST WORRIED HIS DAD'S GONNA BE MAD WHEN WE GET BACK.
WHY?
HE'S... PROTECTIVE, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER'S BACKS. JUST LIKE THE SWORD-WALKERS.
AW, DAMMIT!
WHAT?!
I LEFT MY TICKET IN THE THEATER!
IF I'VE GOTTA PAY AGAIN, I'M GONNA BE PISSED.
WE'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE THIS MOVIE. CJ'S DAD EVEN PULLED STRINGS TO GET US ON ONE OF THE SCAVENGER HUNTS SO WE COULD SEE THE TRAILER EARLY.
REALLY? MY FRIENDS AND I WANTED TO DO THAT, BUT WE WERE NEVER IN THE RIGHT CITY.
WHY AREN'T YOUR FRIENDS HERE, ANYWAY?
THAT'S A GOOD--
RRRRRRR

DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WE'RE BEH ND THE HOSPITAL. THERE'RE ALWAYS WE.RD NOISES.
CJ'S RIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DICK. IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE WI--
ROARRRRRR!
LITTLE PEOPLE!
GHH!
SNEAKING UP ON ME!
COME ON!
SHRRP
WHOA!
WHUH?!
HURT... ME...
RUN!

HURTT MEEE!
GAHH!
KRASSH
GONNA GET YOUU!
COME ON, CJ!
I'M GOING! I'M GOING!
THERE!
COME ON COME ON COME ON...
TEAR LITTLE PEOPLE APART!
ALMOST--

--THERE!
RAAARRR!
SLAM
EVERY =PANT= BODY =PANT= OKAY?
WHA- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
NO...NO IDEA...
DID IT GET YOU?
JUST MY SHIRT. I'M FINE.
SLAM SLAM
RRRRR!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
SLAM KOOM SLAM
IS THERE ANOTHER WAY OUT?
THERE'S A SIDE DOOR--INTO THE OTHER ALLEY. IF WE HURRY, WE CAN GET TO IT BEFORE HE STARTS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY IN!
UH, GUYS?

I...I DON'T THINK I CAN WALK.
IT LOOKS SPRAINED.
THEN WE HAVE TO LEAVE HIM.
SLAM SLAM SLAM
WHA-WHAT?!
CJ...
LOOK, WITH WHO MY DAD IS... YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR ME TO GET BACK.
AND WE CAN'T OUTRUN THAT THING IF WE'RE CARRYING YOU.
SLAM SLAM
I-I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS...
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS? ARE YOU COMING?
ALL RIGHT. GOOD LUCK THEN.

SLAM SLAM SLAM
OH MAN, OH MAN, OH MAN...
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, JOSH. I PROMISE.
EVEN IF WE GET OUT OF HERE, WHERE ARE WE GONNA GO? WE LIVE ACROSS THE RIVER. CJ'S THE ONLY ONE WHO LIVES IN OLD GOTHAM.
MY CIRCUS IS ON THE EDGE--ON THIRD STREET. AND THEY HAVE SUPPLIES. DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?
YEAH... BUT...BUT MAYBE CJ'S RIGHT. I'LL SLOW YOU BOTH DOWN.
COME ON, JOSH. WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER. JUST LIKE THE MOVIE.
AS A TEAM.

SLAM SLAM
GHH.
IT'S OKAY-- WE GOT YOU...
GAHH! OPEN OPEN!
SLAM BAM SLAM
THERE YOU GO... NICE AND--
WHAT IS IT?
THE POUNDING STOPPED.

IS IT STILL THERE? TELL ME IT'S STILL THERE!
COME ON! WE'VE GOTTA--
KSSH
WHU--? DIFFERENT LITTLE PEOPLE?
RUN!

ARGOORR!
WHA--?
MOVE, MOVE, MOVE!
GO, CJ!
OH--
LITTLE PEOPLE!
HURT LITTLE PEOPLE!
UHN!

KEEP GOING!
WHERE ARE YOU GO NG?!
HURT YOU!
YA!
ARGH!
GAH!
WOOP!
PLEASE, NO!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
GO! CATCH UP WITH THE OTHERS! I'LL BUY YOU TIME!

HEY!
HEY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT IF YOU WANT ME YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO
GRAHH!
WHOA!
OKAY, YOU CAN JUMP!
LET'S SEE HOW FAR!
GET BACK HERE!
YOU GOT THIS, YOU GOT THIS, YOU GOT
--THIS!
GAHHH!
KA THWOOM
OOF...

LATER.
YOU KIDS HAVE HAD SOME NIGHT.
BY THE SOUND OF IT, YOU WERE LUCKY TO HAVE EACH OTHER. WHO KNOWS HOW THINGS WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT OTHERWISE.
YEAH...
HEY, CJ...HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
I GOT AHOLD OF MY DAD. HE WAS OUT OF THE CITY WHEN THE BLACKOUT HAPPENED. HE'S COMING TO PICK ME UP.
ACTUALLY...I KIND OF MEANT HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT JOSH? AND WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT ABOUT HIM? I DID WHAT I HAD TO. IF HE CAN'T GET OVER IT...THAT'S HIS PROBLEM.
CJ!
OH, THANK GOD!
IS THAT...?
ARE YOU HURT?
I'M OKAY, DAD... REALLY...
WHERE ARE THE OTHER BOYS' PARENTS?
THAT'D BE US.
MISTER...?
MARONI. SAL MARONI.
THANK YOU--AND YOUR BOY--FOR TAKING CARE OF MY SON. AND THE OWNER--IS HE AROUND?
I'M CC HALY.
A PLEASURE, CC. CONSIDER ME IN YOUR CIRCUS'S DEBT. IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...
I'LL... KEEP THAT IN MIND, MR. MARONI.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU AND YOUR SON ARE WELCOME TO STAY, UNTIL THE POWER COMES BACK...
NO, NO... THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. BUT AGAIN--MY THANKS.
I'M SORRY, JOSH.
YEAH... ME TOO...
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY GROUNDED--

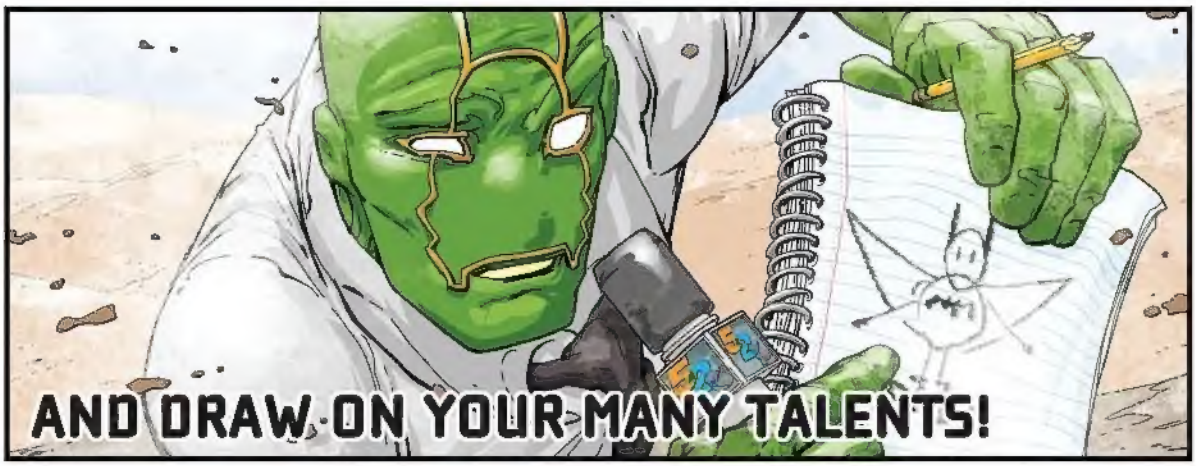
--FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME.
WHICH WE'LL DEAL WITH TOMORROW.
BUT RIGHT NOW...
HEY.
LISTEN, CAN I, UH... HAVE A MINUTE?
GO AHEAD.

CRAZY NIGHT, HUH?
YEAH. TOTALLY CRAZY.
WAS THE MOVIE GOOD, AT LEAST?
WHAT I SAW OF IT.
GOOD.
YEAH...
LISTEN, GUYS... I'M SORRY. I'VE BEEN A TOTAL JERK.
YOU TWO ARE AWESOME, AND THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS LOSE YOU. I KNOW THIS DOESN'T FIX STUFF, BUT I WAS THINKING...
...MAYBE WE COULD CHANGE THINGS UP IN THE ACT?
WITH A MASK?
WELL, WE'LL ALL WEAR 'EM. AND GET MATCHING COSTUMES, TOO. WE'LL BE A TEAM.
THAT'S... A NICE IDEA, BUT ARE YOU SURE? WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE THE STAR, DICK.
I'M TOTALLY SURE. YOU ASK ME...
...STARS ARE OVERRATED.
END

NEWS HAPPENS...
FAST!
AS AN AWARD-WINNING REPORTER...
YOU NEED TO DIG FOR THE TRUTH!
TO UNDERSTAND THE FACTS...
FORWARDS AND BACKWARDS!
BE READY TO FACE DEATH...
ON ITS OWN TURF!

TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE WHAT IT WANTS!

INSPIRE PEOPLE TO FLY HIGH!


AND DRAW ON YOUR MANY TALENTS!

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME!
NEXT WEEK TUNE IN FOR CHANNEL 52'S THANKSGIVING SPECIAL!
DON'T EAT BEFORE YOU GET HERE! WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SPOILERS YOUR DINNER!
GET IT? SPOILERS. BAM!

NAHGA